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UNCLAS ANKARA 001333

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EB/TRA/OTP AND EUR/SE  
ROME FOR ICE ROBERT STIRITI  
PARIS FOR TSA  
DHS FOR CBP/CSI - TODD HORTON  
DEPT PASS TRANSPORTATION DEPT

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: Turkey Wants to Participate in CSI

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1. This message contains an action request in para 6.
2. On March 10, Basat Ozturk, MFA Head of the Maritime Affairs Department, conveyed the GOT's official, positive response on including the port of Izmir in the Container Security Initiative (CSI). He said that the Turkish Customs Undersecretariat was coordinating a review of the legal and administrative issues involved in hosting U.S. personnel in Izmir, including how to reconcile CSI with the fact that Turkish law prohibits the presence of foreign officials in customs zones. Ozturk opined that U.S. customs officers would have to work out of adjacent buildings rather than in the customs zone itself.
3. Ozturk said that it would be necessary to conclude a bilateral CSI agreement, subject to the approval of the GOT Council of Ministers and possibly even requiring Parliamentary ratification. The model Declaration of Principles provided by the U.S. side would not be sufficient. Based on Turkish Customs' recent visits to an operating CSI port in France and similarities in the French/Turkish "legal regimes" and "state structures", Ozturk stated that the GOT would like to use our CSI arrangement with France as a point of departure for the CSI program in Turkey, and requested that we share a copy of the U.S.-French CSI agreement with the GOT. He maintained that doing so would save both sides time and effort in implementing the program in Turkey.
4. In response to Econoff's question about whether to invite U.S. CBP/ICE personnel to Turkey to discuss the modalities of implementing CSI, Ozturk disclosed that the Turkish side was still reviewing the issues and that they were not yet ready for talks with our side.
5. MFA noted that the GOT is giving high priority to procuring screening and security equipment for Izmir to facilitate work in the CSI. Ozturk pointed out that Turkish Railways will relinquish control of the port later this year when it is privatized.
6. Action Request for DHS and EB: Please advise whether the bilateral U.S.-France CSI Agreement can be shared with Turkish authorities.  
Edelman